

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 MC-02 DRC-01 DODE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 /037 W

----- 002485

R 130814Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0586

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 4119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, SF,NJH

SUBJECT: EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION FOR BELL MODEL  
206B HELICOPTER

REFERENCE: (A) STATE A-6857  
(B) DURBAN A-62

1. PAUL NASH OF ASTRA AIRCRAFT CALLED EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 11 TO INQUIRE ABOUT PROBLEM WITH EXPORT LICENSE ON ONE OF TWO BELL MODEL 206B HELICOPTERS ON ORDER FROM BELL HELICOPTER COMPANY OF FORT WORTH. NASH SAID HE HAD RECEIVED TELEX FROM BELL EXPLAINING THAT COMMERCE HAD REQUESTED CONGEN JOHANNESBURG DO PRE-LICENSING CHECK AND SUGGESTING THAT ASTRA CONTACT CONGEN IN ATTEMPT EXPEDITE INVESTIGATION.

12. NASH SAID THAT HE NOT SURE WHICH OF TWO AIRCRAFT CURRENTLY ON ORDER BEING HELD UP, BUT SAID THAT NEITHER DESTINED FOR MILITARY USE AND NEITHER WOULD BE RE-EXPORTED. ONE OF THESE TWO MACHINES, HE SAID, HAS ALREADY BEEN SOLD TO CIVIL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, PRETORIA EARTHWORKS AND CONTRACTORS (PTY) LTD. OTHER HAS NOT YET BEEN SOLD BUT WOULD EVENTUALLY GO TO SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCIAL FIRM. HE SAID HELICOPTER SALES PARTICULARLY HEAVY THIS YEAR AND ASTRA ORDERING AHEAD IN ORDER BE ABLE OFFER QUICK DELIVERY. HE NOTED THAT ASTRA SALES OF BELL HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN RUNNING AT ONE OR TWO  
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A YEAR UNTIL THIS YEAR, BUT THAT COMPANY HAD ALREADY

MARKETED SIX IN 1974 AND EXPECTED TREND TO CONTINUE FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. NASH ALSO INSISTED THAT ASTRA WELL AWARE U.S. LICENSING CONDITIONS AND WOULD REMAIN IN STRICT COMPLIANCE. HE SAID THAT ASTRA DOES CONSIDERABLE VOLUME OF BUSINESS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY AND WITH RHODESIANS BUT NOT RPT NOT IN U.S. PRODUCTS. LAST FIVE BELL HELICOPTERS SOLD BY COMPANY, HE SAID, HAD GONE TO GNGM CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, ASCOL (RETAIL FURNITURE CHAIN), CONSOLIDATED DIAMONDS MINES (ANGLO-AMERICAN), KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, AND ESCOM (ON LEASE). IN ADDITION, ONE AIRCRAFT RETAINED BY ASTRA FOR COMMERCIAL CHARTERS.

4. EMBASSY HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE CONTACT WITH ASTRA OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY MIKE LINDRIDGE (PARA 2, REF B) IN CONNECTION LOCKHEED SALE OF L-100 AIRCRAFT TO SAFAIR FREIGHTERS. HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE AGGRESSIVE SALESMEN BUT HONEST AND FORTHRIGHT IN DEALING WITH EMBASSY. THEY DO LARGE VOLUME OF LEGITIMATE BUSINESS IN U.S. AIRCRAFT AND, ON THE FACE OF IT, WOULD PROBABLY NOT WANT TO RISK JEOPARDIZING LINKS WITH U.S. AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY BY VIOLATING LICENSING CONDITIONS. EMBASSY THEREFORE INCLINED TO ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE NASH'S ASSURANCES THAT BELL HELICOPTER WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE ONLY TO SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCIAL BUYER. RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION BE HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING FURTHER INVESTIGATION. EMBOFF HAS LUNCHEON ENGAGEMENT WITH LINDRIDGE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 17 DURING WHICH WILL ATTEMPT OBTAIN CONFIRMATION OF INTENDED CIVIL (AS WELL AS NON-RHODESIAN) SALE OF AIRCRAFT AND WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION/ EXPLANATION OF ASTRA DEALINGS WITH KEN AIR AS THES RELATE TO U.S. INTERESTS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HELICOPTERS, EXPORT LICENSES, AIRCRAFT SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974PRETOR04119  
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**Office:** ACTION COME  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** (A) STATE A-6857  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Date:** 04 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATION FOR BELL MODEL 206B HELICOPTER  
**TAGS:** ESTC, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005